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A. Graham Brown

SHOUT
SHARE
IT

25th September 1948 I had heard that a pair of Brolgas were nesting in a swamp on Nangana property. So with a warning telephone call a few days previously, I set off after lunch fully equipped to take what photos I could get.

(20)

It was a very windy day with light cloud in front of the sun. The road out was rotten and I felt more as if I have made a rough sea passage by the time I had arrived. However the slow speed enforced by the track allowed me to pick up a new song, which proved to be that of the BROWN SONGLARK. Many more were seen and heard later at the swamp.

Around the homestead were WILLIE-WAGTAILS, SPARROWS and the incessant calls of the PALLID CUCKOO. I followed four Dunnarts in a feed, until

we got as close to the swamp in my car as we could. I then left it. Here I crossed to the west and we went down a hundred yards or so from the swamp. As we walked over the brow of the hill there was the female sitting in the middle of the swamp. Immediately she came off and flew off to join her mate at the other end of the dam or swamp. Jim left me and I walked on down to a stony barrier overlooking the swamp. At this end was a dam and the swamp gradually dried as it went westward so that the ground at the far end was firm and dry. The photo shows this dam and just on the skyline the trees surrounding Nangano homestead. The swamp extends half a mile to the right in the photo.

The birds to be seen from that

Round about were MAGPIES, MAGPIE-LARKS, PIPITS, SPUR-WINGED PLOVER, RAVENS and WHITE-FRONTED CHATS. Also out in the swamp were BLACK DUCK and a few pairs of MOUNTAIN DUCK. On the dam were two small brown and white duck with massive bills which were rare. I took them to be young of the Mountain Duck. Also out in the swamp were flocks of waders — I am getting almost desperate about waders and these on the swamp were as far as I can say the Common Sandpiper. But I must pay some specimens.

In the meantime the BROWNS were
stalking about at the other end of
the swamp paying no attention to me -
however they do so as I examined their
nest which was 40 yards out in the swamp.
It was built on a slightly raised piece
of ground and contained two eggs - very
dirty. The two photographs show the swamp
around the nest and the nest and eggs
themselves. The birds kept well away and
as the surrounding country was so wet & no
thought of taking the birds was entertained

Then I walked along the paling fence which runs through the swamp and divides Nangana and the Hesse properties. On the latter side it was dry, and I got a very good view of the waders. As I got to the dry western end of the swamp a STUBBLE QUAIL jumped up from my feet. SKYLARKS were singing above — and I thought it a very much better song than the Brown Song-lark's though so many compare the two. On my way back I disturbed a STRIATED FIELD-WREN from a tussock and came across two Magpie's nest in a windmill. It contained two eggs, one nap. the size of the other.

I returned via Turretta where were many birds as there always are in that area BLACK BIRDS, GOLDFINCHES PAINTED CUCKOOS + GANG-GANGS.

20th September 1948 I was off early that morning to Lake Caranganine where I heard that the Gulls were nesting. Arriving at about 8.0 am. I first did a sweep across a Roosting and back via the shore to the car.

There were many WHITE-FRONTED CHATS, SKYLARKS, YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILLS, GOLDFINCH MAGPIES SPURWINGED PLOVERS, WHITE-FRONTED HERON. SPARROWS and RAVENS. This in fact is very much what one would expect to see in a brief time in this country; all these birds are very common. On the water were MUSK DUCK - a party of 5 and 5 wondered if this was not a family party - and BLACK DUCK. A few SWANS were present but not very many. Along the shore flew a small flock of RED -

Cabrea Dotterel.

I then had a good look at the various islands just off shore which were covered with SILVER GULLS and were skimming where they were breeding. There were about fifteen of these islands and going on observations made later there were roughly 300 nests on each island. This makes 4,500 nests and a nesting success of roughly 1½ gives 7000 silver gulls this year from this locality I picked what I thought would

be a suitable island and returned to the car for refreshments and for my paraphenalia. On the way there a pair of STRIATED FIELD-WRENS flew out of some rush tussocks and sailed away down wind just above the top of the rushes to disappear down again in a flash.

The first island I chose proved to be so difficult of access, and the second needed no deeper wading

than to the nest. The first thing that I saw as I climbed my gear down an arroyo was a swan's nest with five eggs, and a picture of which is shown. Then a rough trail leads on the sand. I counted many nests and many eggs and many young swans chirping. Then a long coze up to nests with eggs and young swans 5th inches. The dam was much as

it had been — sun-cured tight over and a very strong west wind. The sun was still warm and like a lesson I continued a row of nine right beside the boys' nest and directly at a gull's nest six per cent. But for me the sun was too much. I had lived the position a million times and like a film "scene" in the mind. The cap of the camera widened and the war-

quiet and one only sounds in the incomprehensible tongue inside and later appears (at least) to mean nothing out of the window. The lapping tide as well as the camera seems to make that instrument retreat and shake.

I stayed in an hour and thought was came as close as we'll get. That girl did not come to that west. I was a little alone & the tide and the camera movement was so great that the rest could scarcely be recognized in the room.

Then I packed up and came home. It was my first time in a hide – a camera pointing out quite some and a pen, essays raise keen interest.

(18) In the afternoon I went down to the valley beyond Tunisa at Gelli Grande. It was quiet and sheltered from the

wind. I was also almost birdless! As we slipped and panned my mind he seen no birds - very much not breaking a finger.

Birds listed during were SCARLET ROBIN MAGPIE YELLOW ROBIN KOOKABURRA GREY FANTAIL FAIRY WRENS [illegible] THORNBILL WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER YELLOW-WINGED HONEYEATER, FANTAILED CUCKOO RED-CAPPED PARADISE NATIVE THRUSH MOUNTAIN THRUSH CRIMSON ROSELLA [illegible] SCRUB-WREN BLUE-WREN and RUFOUS BRISTLE-BIRD. We ate I noticed coming out now and then after an hours waiting. and then necessary for it appear. I got a beautiful view of it and is actions as it came in amongst the bracken. This was the only observation we had (except yesterday at Mountain Thrush in the gully in the late afternoon. But it was a fine day as a whole and memorable day. It was a very fine week-ends birding. Tuesday it was to rain that gave me to Malaria.

0th October 1918 This afternoon we went for a quiet drive on over Thurnby's hill. The high ground in Leicester was carrying very many MAGPIES and SILVER GULLS. There were a large number of immature Gannets in Farmer Ann's Home paddocks where there was also a pair of Canada Geese and it struck me as two species did not appear to live on the paddock. The Magpies paddocks were more associated with the ground and was a welcome addition to the paddocks when the Gannets were.

Bird Lore was very deficient with many species but with very large numbers of any one species. Perhaps the Cormorants was the most [illegible] which is apparently very variable in numbers. Mr Cox's Gannets were very SWALLOWS round the edge of Pond on POST. SWANS had not yet left

and there were many BLACK DUCK on in the centre. I thought there was also another species but I could not see it. Few MOUNTAIN DUCK were round the edge. A LITTLE GREBE were here in pairs and the main [illegible] I think I saw more in summer than winter. I was rather surprised to find a single GREAT CRESTED GREBE on the water. I should have thought the water was too shallow. In the ranges very SPUR-WINGED PLOVER and up in the [illegible] LITTLE WHITE-FACE. SWALLOWS and a WHITE-WINGED [illegible] but not for that spot.

We turned left to Warncoort and headed north across the plains to the road around us. But however [illegible] lines containing or [illegible] forest there were PALLID CUCKOOS. We might have seen more by [illegible] but there are extraordinarily few this year - as certain as any and rising in the south [illegible].

October 1948 having been put off work for another week we decided to adopt the very kright suggestion and go and stay the rest of the week with Walter and Marian Hopkins at Longhop near the South Australian Border. So at 10 o'clock we set off (an hour late) in the rain which continued until we were the other side of Camperdown. Here in the plantations were NOISY MINERS and EASTERN ROSELLAS.

(43)

At 7 Mile Creek we turned up through Noorat to Mortlake and from there on into the Hamilton road. On the plains were WHITE-FRONTED HERONS, a GOSHAWK, FAIRY MARTINS MAGPIE-LARK SWALLOWS PIPITS MAGPIES SKY LARKS and GOLDFINCHES. At Hexham was a flock of RED-BACKED PARROTS that were delightful to see again. At the same time we had an intimate encounter with a snake. We heard hoarse sounds and found it to be a BROWN. This was the first snake we had seen of any size — and comparatively tame I was to see many more. Then began the

was sent.

The way to Newham, Cavanui and Tuscarora is flat but wide and pleasant country to pass through. We walked on for [illegible] miles and then had lunch. Refreshed by our meal, admirable, at the [illegible] inn, we returned our way to Castlerock. Here the country became rather [illegible] a plateau divided up by wide [illegible] ways. From Castlerock to Kaitawa began that part of the journey that remembered from Hamilton to the Grampians and here we saw SPRINGBOK PLOVER, TREE-HAUNTING RAVENS and STARLINGS.

From Castlerock we took the Kaitawa road for 45 miles to Kaitawa school. The first part followed the Glenelg R. which here was [illegible] with [illegible] water from recent torrential rains. Then we climbed up into [illegible] country [illegible] continued with us [illegible] of the way, [illegible] scrub which is low, stunted except [illegible] reminded us of that seen in our trip from

Hackney is a reserve in Queensland [illegible] we saw a number of birds including [illegible] numbers of Corellas) — SWAMP HARRIER (Black), WHISTLING EAGLE, CRIMSON [illegible], KOOKABURRA, PALLID CUCKOO, [illegible] SWALLOW, BLUE WREN, YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL, NATIVE THRUSH, WILLIE-WAGTAIL, WHITE-WINGED CHOUGH, BROWN TREE-CREEPER.

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Duvall was 5 miles down the road from the Langkoop school and we arrived at 4.30. It is a town of [illegible] consisting almost entirely of [illegible] with [illegible] iron roofs, a brilliant green grass and among them many white sheep. The homestead is built [illegible] combines [illegible] and looks out on a swamp ½ mile in diameter in which stand many dead trees and around it dogs are red gums. The day was [illegible], with a fierce [illegible] winds 30 knots were not much in evidence but as soon as I had [illegible]

Then I set out to see what there was
in what light remained.
In the swamp were one
BLACK CORMORANT, many L. PIED CORMORANTS,
COOT, EASTERN SWAMPHEN, BLACK-FRONTED DOTTE-
SPUR-WINGED PLOVER, STRIPE-NECKED IBIS,
[illegible], WHITE-NECKED
and WHITE-FRONTED HERON, SWAN, MOUNTAIN DUCK,
WOOD-DUCK (hen) GREY TEAL, BLACK DUCK. After
talking a flock of WOOD-DUCK sailing on the
edge of the swamp I returned to the
house, after a very fine - two days
Convalescing!

14th October 1948 Lamyboi. I had "Jazz" Buddha
with me. She was a docile creature
with a great fondness for grass and
home so that, I had continually to be
carried. I had always imagined
a horse to be an idle animal for use
on expeditions. But it is not. For one
has to be hauled (which takes time) and
has unless trained to be perfect, still it
will eat and stamp a more or less

makes the walk one mass grass career all over the place. It is rough — hard to dismount. Nevertheless it does take one on a reconnaissance with comparative speed and comfort and lashes and kindled friends.

We started going round the swamp. Besides these we seen the ... being. Other swamp birds recorded was the WHITE IBIS. Many nests were seen in the red Gums — a WHISTLING EAGLES and many of the platform variety — herons'. Birds in the surrounding country — MAGPIE, RAVEN, SWALLOW, TREE-MARTIN, CORELLA, PALLID CUCKOO, STARLING, SPARROW, GOLDFINCH, NATIVE THRUSH, NOISY MINER, WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATER, WILLIE-WAGTAIL and RED-BACKED PARROT. On the other side of the swamp is an area called the "Thickets". Actually it is a small paddock near the swamp which has not been grazed and as a result many young saplings have made a dense thicket. I spent some time

in time and was rewarded by
finding FUSK WARBLERS - hundreds of them
and we identified two, one by the YELLOW
KNOB FINCH, EASTERN ROSELLA, BROWN
TREECREEPER, STRIATED PARDALOTE.

I then rode over to a small, wood
covered swamp but found only a
family of MOUNTAIN DUCK. One had spann
plumage and was the centre of a whirlpool
and being repeatedly dived by a hawk,
dodging and ducking in all directions
as its tormentors swooped over it as
black as a tarbarrel.

I then rode back the way I had
come home for lunch and rode in
a less abundant but more
beautiful area and finished my ride with
the MAGPIE-LARK.

After lunch I went for a short
walk up the road and along it for a
while making my acquaintance with
the birds of the area and enjoying
the view.

A pleasant afternoon during which I
walked up the Longwing. Then at 4.30 I set out
for the S.W. corner of the swamp. I added to
BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE to my list and also
found the nest of a WHITE-NECKED HERON. Birds
were very quiet carefully sitting particularly
the White ~~Ibis~~ Ibis ~~which~~ which sat on their
nests [illegible] in their white plumage against the
dark ~~sky~~ clouds and the [illegible] Eagles
soaring like specks under the clouds

15th October 1918 Opened a beautiful calm day. In the night
I had been lying awake to the call of the BOOBOOK
15 owl. A night [illegible] ~~during which~~ it was arranged that I go off to another
part of the Depot to the Border. It appeared
we [illegible] had a three days of work I was
anxious to get it over.

The track from [illegible] ~~Victoria~~ to Victoria and Victoria
to Darwin between Victoria and Darwin is in
three Tracts one either side from Darwin to
Katherine and Pine Creek and the third
through Darwin to Katherine and the Ground
was given and the Car believed like a

most successful combination. After four miles I struck by some branches for some eight weeks had view from JACKY WINTER, DUSKY WOOD-SWALLOW, STRIATED THORNBILL, EASTERN WHITEFACE, BLUEWREN, YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL, BRONZE-WING and YELLOW-WINGED HONEYEATER added to my notes. I also found that there were WHITE-EARED [illegible] present in fact mixing in flocks with the honeys. CRIMSON ROSELLAS were also counted in the open-forest on trees and fences; in fact they seem here to have the same habitat as the Eastern Rosella.

Then drove (east) into the protected and pulled up beside a rushy swamp which proved on inspection to be singularly uninviting. So I moved on through a gate in the fence to a paddock and after crossing another fenced ground pulled up by "Dodge 1926" a large swamp with many trees and thick rushy reeds. Inspection seemed to show that it was worth visiting. I saw a flock that was on it, the rest in

200 yards. Identical and unmanned
(Swainson's). DUSKY MOORHEN were swimming about
in the reeds and at the swamp's edge and
the usual common water birds (coot and
Eastern Swamphen). A clear circuit into the
scrub found nothing of interest but a
LITTLE GREBE on a weed strewn pond.

After lunch I set off and circled
a large circuit of the paperbark swamp
forest and scrub. The first bird was
a BLUE-FACED HONEYEATER — a beautiful bird
with which I was very pleased. Shortly after,
while starting to scrub line birds were seen
running hastily over the heath away from
me. A few feathers — later presumably taken
on the paperbark were about. I took no notice
me for their presence. They were smaller
than I had imagined.

Resting by the swamp, where at least
two Yellow-billed Spoonbill were resting, under
cover from the (unnoticed) sun EASTERN
SPINEBILL — [illegible] on a gum by the

always a bit surprised to see this bird - between occurrences I virtually forget it's existence. While collecting were making the usual din and I thought until now an INSECTIVOROUS GOSHAWK. Then realised the intruder. A female had built its nest on the mountain inside a rock and contained young.

I was at our last camp [illegible] Blue-tongue lizards [illegible] and saw [illegible] Hall's Unpleasant Wasp [illegible] a wasp [illegible] a beautiful [illegible] specimen with black banding. It [illegible] this wasp [illegible] a total length of 2½-3 feet and always [illegible] at the end made it quiet.

Then took the car down to [illegible] and immediately I was [illegible] by birds at the dam - EASTERN PIED-BILL WHITE-WINGED TREE-SWIFTLET, BROWN-HEADED HONEYEATER and RED WATTLE-BIRD. [illegible] Turnbull was

[illegible] to it running in a nest almost
hidden in the dependent part of a gum and
a female a Flagtail passed down at the
side of the edge of the nest.

I returned to the Boundary Camp
for tea. After [illegible] round a swamp
where Black-fronted Dotterels and Little Black
Cormorants were the chief inhabitants.
[illegible] as they circled the swamp was
a LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT [illegible] a shade larger
than its companions - a RESTLESS FLYCATCHER
flew over [illegible] making [illegible]. By the car
in the bracken was a BLUE WREN feeding
young and a WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WREN
[illegible] in the bracken.

10th October 1917. Hardly [illegible] was a few
(35) large white clouds across a blue sky.
went out on the swamp in the morning in
a skiff [illegible] visited [illegible]
[illegible] found the Little Black Cormorants nests
in one - each with four eggs in it. There
were also several Black-backed Stilts - two in
[illegible] and one of the nests

After lunch I set out on foot towards the dunes. Nothing much was seen in the swamp on the outskirts. In fact a strong wind was blowing which made observing very difficult. I went on to the dune beyond where it comes into water touch. I got a distant view of a pair of Little Grebes in full plumage - they are beautiful. Then on towards the swamp home.

I have had a very lazy day but feel rather exhausted tired. I think yesterday was a bit strenuous. Still - I have got about a lot in limited time and have a total of twenty birds seen in the district (Looking out on to the dunes is seen as being in the district).

It has been a wonderful few days - and has made me less and less inclined for work!

17th October 1918 We set off at 9.30 am on our long way home via Mount Gambier. We had had a marvellous holiday, short though it was and I was very much better. In the open forest between the Border and Naracoorte - Mt. Gambier road I saw

a SWAMP-HARRIER, WHITE-FRONTED [illegible] and DIAMOND FIRETAIL. These three brought the bird list of the locality up to seventy four species - quite a fair list for the time.

After lunch we left with Reid we travelled South through vast pine forests until we came out on to the Selkirk land round Tikitiki. It was raining and we had not much time so we hurried on to enter the extensive forest that extends from the border almost to Port Fairy - a dreary road. A SCARLET ROBIN and a pair of Pallid Cuckoos were seen. We had lunch at Heywood - not bad either and hurried on again after on board.

It rained most of the time and with the windscreen wiper on it was not much fun. At Tiendara was a pair of Caselas and BROWN HAWK. On a swamp at Port Fairy were Little Pied Cormorants and that ended our observations of birds of any interest at all. Through

rain past the familiar dairy country of Warnambool & the far more dignified and pleasant grazing country of Camperdown, & then home just 260 miles. The list for the holiday was seventy nine species. I hope I shall be able to go up there again with more time (and strength) & that more use can be made of the Common

Semi-improved Open forest.

Scrub — "Low country"

"Billy's Hole" — Swamp

"Dodge hole"

Swamp before Devil homestead

Swamp and improved Open forest

Swamp & red-gums Devil

5.11.48 (13) I got a call in the afternoon and half way to Balls Dam when that was over I of course went on the white way and had a least of birds. It was really been very wet and the dam was full and covered with water.

What one expects to see — EASTERN SWAMPHEN, COOT, LITTLE PIED CORMORANT, LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT SWANS, HOARY-HEADED GREBE SPUR-WINGED PLOVER and SILVER GULL. There were several pairs of BLACK DUCK and a single male. MUSK DUCK was seen.

Long bill was brought immediately to memory when a PIANED GOOSE was seen on the other side of the dam feeding on the grass a few feet from the water. But there were very many SHOVELLER on the dam - their white under tail coverts white eye and top of bill proclaimed them as HARDHEAD. They were present in astonishing numbers for such a comparatively rare and elusive bird. When they rose out of

the water to stretch their wings their white abdomens were seen. This, with their general build and diving reminded me immediately of the Tufted Duck on the Round Pond.

As I was watching these I heard in the water nearby the pattering and splash of ducks alighting. I looked down and there a mere few yards away was a pair of BLUE-BILLED DUCK. They reminded me in build of the scaup - flat and wide but the black head, chestnut back and pale blue bill of the male were very much more handsome. The female was a very pale freckled lady. They appeared not in the least shy as I sat in the car a little way away. A very rare New-bird!

6.11.46 (22) The next day was wet too. The three of us had spent a very muddy hour at the Clac Shaw and came out again to Balls Dam where we had

a cup of tea overlooking the water. All birds seen the previous day were also seen including the pair of Blue-billed duck. In addition there were a few flocks of MOUNTAIN DUCK and this time there alighted on the water below us a pair of BLUE-WINGED SHOVELLER! The blue wing is very distinctive in flight — when at rest it can be identified by the shape of the head & the fact it is not a Pink-eared duck which is most outstanding! So the dam to date carried five species of duck!

We then went for a walk down to the hedge where there were many SWAMP WRENS and where the REED WARBLERS were singing loudly and scratchily on either side. In the Willows which border that side of the swamp was a WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATER — another reminder of LANGLOOP. Quietly in amongst the reeds were the DUSKY MOORHEN

It is a quiet and retiring bird and though I feel certain that it is never absent from the swamp, there are many occasions that I do not see it. A pair of MARSH TERN flew over, flying erratically and a single WHITE-FRONTED HERON flew off from near a post. I climbed a fence so that I could survey the near swamp from a height. From there the reeds did not look nearly so thick and no nests were seen. An awful racket to my left drew attention to a colony of MAGPIE geese in their nesting in a nearby pine. A misty rain started as I turned home while a flock of fifteen Little Black Cormorants tumbled 'too' down out of the sky to alight on the sodden banks.

13th November 1948

(12) Saturday afternoon as I promised Ralph Williams that I would go down to the 'Point' when the [illegible]

that he had White-faced Herons nesting and that a pair of Bustards were about the place. While I was waiting for him to come out I strolled about and saw MAGPIES, MAGPIE-LARKS, RED-WATTLE-BIRDS, WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATERS, STARLINGS, GOLDFINCHES, SPARROWS and BLACKBIRDS. But I was very surprised to see the flash of a rufous tail and spot a WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WREN in the grounds of a palm — an odd plant in a locality far removed from the bush. Usually the garden at the Point is overgrown with shrubs with large trees including flowering gums and very many pines.

It was to the latter that Ralph led me to show me an old WHITE-FRONTED HERONS nest. He said the birds was gone and the pair were building again but we could not find where. A WILLIE-WAGTAIL was also in the thick pines.

We then searched for the Bandicoots and eventually a short yarn. Mrs Williams led us to a bird sitting on a twig jutting out from a clear thin trunk of a gum. I looked and admired it as well as confirming their identification. A little later a doubt crept into my mind and when looked at critically of course the bird was a TAWNY FROGMOUTH! Such is the power of suggestion. At close approach it looked round but made no attempt at "freezing" bough-like.

It was a very profitable half-hour — now I know them their garden!

19.11.49. After my Friday morning at the Melbourne hospital Joan, Michael and I drove down to stay at Noel & Merricks North. The trip through tea-tree and tight scrub was familiar and brought back memories of staying in that part as a child. Nothing exciting was seen other than a BLACK-FACED

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(cont'd)

CUCKOO-SHRIKE, a DUSKY WOODSWALLOW a SCARLET ROBIN and a FIJI DOVE. On arrival I had a quick refresher and found I remembered quite a lot.

20.11.48. I explored a little more going into the orchards and into a little piece of mango-gum bush opposite the house. NATIVE THRUSHES were everywhere in the bush. WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WRENS were in among the pyjuncy round the garden and BLUE WRENS could be heard. The common honeyeater was the YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER which was everywhere in the garden, hanging onto the flowers were a pair of EASTERN

Swallows : Finches : Thrushes : Trees

SPINEBILL Around the house and buildings were BLACKBIRDS, GOLDFINCHES, GREEN FINCHES and SPARROWS. Quite away a little further afield were many STARLINGS. Heard from the house were PALLID CUCKOOS, and away a little further away in bush was the trill of a FANTAILED CUCKOO. GREY FANTAILS and MAGPIES were in the trees bordering the orchard from where a COMMON BRONZEWING flapped landing. Later in the morning Joan and I walked down through the orchards where there were WILLIE-WAGTAILS RED WATTLEBIRDS and INDIAN MYNAHS. In the scrub in the lower gully we were disappointed to find only a pair of WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER. In the afternoon we went to tea to a Mr Slaters home which was below Roslyn on the coast - beautifully made and situated with the very best made of the garden.

In the Tana Lying Camp there were WHITE-FRONTED HERONS, SWALLOWS, SKYLARKS and a VANKEEN KESTREL. In the grass in their garden was a LITTLE WATTLE-BIRD — a species I have not met for a very long time. In the house and the shade were very few SILVER GIBBS.

When we returned I had a core of a camera for any photographable nests. The finding of Yanina in a Lammertiana in the house caused my attention to a BROWN THORNBILL'S nest. I climbed to it — 25'-30' but it was unsuitable for the camera. Then went down into the swamp and a knoll a waterhole. After a while there was a flutter from a rhododendron and there, 3 feet from the ground a YELLOW ROBIN'S nest was just visible to the photographer.

This is indicated by the two photos taken of the bush with camera, left up. To mark this I next morning moved on to a tree the bush over the road.

There were SILVER EYES BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKES WHITE-BROWED TREE-CREEPERS and a deep grunting, chuckling KOOKABURRA which soon indicated to me its nest in a hole in a tall dead trunk which can be seen in the accompanying photograph though I wanted for a much longer time for that bird to return to photograph it as well as it did. I had more patience than I had and I came up. Thrushes beside me on the ground made me look up I saw a GREY FANTAIL building a nest very far up in a tall sapling. Both birds were engaged flying in it and out with the bill working among the entrance.

21 July. The next morning I was up at 6.30 am and on to the thumbler with all the equipment. This was in pursuit

Sunset Thrush : Nest and Young

of the Thrush. I had packed up my tent into two packs. After a hot "garden" with back comb I got a satisfactory angle but on the 45 of number ending with the large end and wanted.

The Sirra soon came back but was off in a flash when the hunter circled so that two or three of the

first photograph. I turned the glass back by a little gain of the rest. Then I leaned a first to examine more of the camera and stayed it for / seconds by my watch. However the two eyes in the rest entranced me and the birds back and as they stayed while I turned circles a tiny [illegible] of rest and rest and bird were gained. It were taken at a distance of 4 meters but the aperture and exposure were varied and many instructive results were obtained. Focus was an inch or two proximal to the estimated focus. Bright sunlight in a bush such as a rhododendron gives far too strong dapplings; and a wing comes natural to cose into the picture for the camera when a branch been between camera & the right. Those are the things I wanted to find out as well as the fact that the lens are a very good investment indeed while waiting for the birds to come

to the west. The activities of a pair of
OLIVE THRUSHES attracted my attention to a
nest in an evergreen. I climbed
to it to find young in it.

My notes for the trip home
that afternoon tell of many GRASSY MINERS
WHITE-THROATED TREE-CREEPER TREE-MARTINS and
NIGHT-HARKS. These notes record only
the bush wanderings and birds met with,
and take no account of the social
doings and entertainment of a week-end.
This week-end also was
just right.

4.12.48. Joan and I again with Michael went
down for the week-end this time to Waiheke.
(39) On the way at the Bluff on the creek were
(Jacobs) a WHITE-NECKED HERON and a STRAW-NECKED
IBIS and within more of interest was
noticed on the Bluff trip this time. Their
garden again was an oasis for birds —
a veritable Kelvingrove of the plains and
the birds seen in it were BLACKBIRDS,
GOLDFINCHES and here with young in cages

arama in verandah, RESTLESS FLYCATCHER, WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATER, SWALLOWS (a pair were exploring the sitting-room for a nesting site!), RED WATTLE-BIRD and PALLID CUCKOO.

I then changed and went off and first visited the plantation where Mr Neal Ramsay had shown me the SNIPE (29 : 47) and they were still there though in much fewer numbers. There was a SILVER GULL on the nearby dam - that's all. But on the plains were MAGPIES, RAVENS, MAGPIE-LARKS, STARLING, WILLIE-WAGTAILS, SKY-LARKS, PIPITS, a BROWN HAWK and many YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILLS. I then moved across to the large dam where I had last seen on that big dam (29 : 47) the mangrove field in which I passed was covered with SPUR-WINGED PLOVER reminding me of a certain mangrove field near Bowkinder which was made memorable by darkness.

First sight on the dam showed little but a WHITE-FACED HERON but a

Common Tern[illegible] duck were which
rested themselves into the trees — the
BLUE-BILL DUCK, HARDHEAD GR. TEAL, MANTHIN DUCK
and a pair of WOOD DUCK — not bad
for a day time I am making with the
aim with comparative ease here a[illegible]
an introduction of Nangoop. The same may
be said in the Feal unit that is simply
because I am not [illegible]

Two Kevens ran the road
in a plantation a pair of small
bright head green parrots. They were
like an adult male Red-backed Parrot
without the red rump. They were too
bright green as a Blue-winged Parrot
and I thought too large for Budgerigah.
Possibly did not get the car in time
to see them as the identity which can't
be proved remains amongst the above
three species.

5.12.48. Next morning I - and another
visit to the Nangoma swamp since I
had been same 2½ months ago - 25/9/48.

On the way in the car I passed a flock of BANDED PLOVER. Over the swamp as I approached I saw a SWIFT HARRIER. I walked on to the now abandoned BROLGA nest a much drier nest than previously, which looked rotten and mildewy. I wandered around and I saw a nest that SANDPIPER (sp?) FIERY MARTIN, STRIATED FIELD-WREN and WHITE-FRONTED CHAT. A quail got up at my feet and appeared to be a STUBBLE QUAIL. From where it rose was a grass-lined nest containing three stone-coloured eggs finely speckled with blue-grey to give a heavier tint appearance with no spots. This does not fit the description of the STUBBLE QUAIL (partic. in numbers) and it may be the Banded Swamp Quail. The two last birds noted around the homestead were the BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE and a GOSHAWK.

Not much was done in the way of birds or the weather was much

with a few friends. Also a large amount of the time was spent socially (and pleasantly), but no ornithologically

H. W. 245 The elderly man who has only a

30 few cancers to a day requires a visit to Johanna Driver Bess Tom. Smith Joan and Michael we see of on a beautiful fine day staying at Geldeland Ferguson. Lovers Bill and we Joan did to Johanna.

It was really a very [illegible] bird day. By the time we had got to Lands Hill the following were in the bag -

BLACKBIRD	GOLDFINCH	SPARROW	STARLING
MAGPIE	MAGPIE-LARK	HOODED CROW	GREY THRUSH
ENGLISH ROBIN	BLUE WREN	SCARLET ROBIN	GREY FANTAIL

The Johanna Rd was most delightful, gently sloping down a river with cleared land, scrub land, on all sides and the bush. A KESTREL hovered over the steep road.

After seeing the man we went in the car as close to the

Rustic Sea [illegible] and then with
rugs walked through the dunes to the sand
were in the mist sun and in the wind
we had a restful lunch watching a very
few sea boat ride on and travel
round [illegible]. Not a sail was
to be seen. It was only later when
I took Michael to see the sea at closer
quarters (and he was very doubtful about it)
did a HOODED PETTERIL run far in front
of us up the beach

After lunch we drove through
paddocks east and parallel to the sea.
PITS were in the grass and STUBBLE QUAIL
sprang clear of the car, not flying
until I got out up it SWALLOWS, a
WHITE-FRONTED CHAT and CRIMSON [illegible]
completed our list. A few miles before we
got out onto a track which led onto
a far more gentle gradient up to the
Clean Rd

In the Charlie's Creek Rd we
stopped for a cup of tea and heard over

us WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WREN BRISTLE-BIRDS
PARDALOTES a few gratings of a Grass-Cat,
And a YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER.

At Nariawera a pair of BLUE-WINGED
PARRAKEETS flew up the road. Too distant
to make identification sure — no range
for the Nariawera. To that list, 57,
three more also added to the list — DUSKY
WOOD SWALLOWS a pair of RESTLESS FLYCATCHERS,
WHITE-EARED and YELLOW-WINGED HONEYEATERS
and a MOUNTAIN THRUSH. Naught
within of great interest was seen, it
was an excellent bird-walk during

19.1.49. More than a month from this date I am
(20) writing the Journal. That I have been at
a wife's funeral in the meantime and that this
time am I — back at Coromandel
FOR the opportunity on the return journey
of going by the Kauaeranga (BLACK-WINGED
PLOVER on the mud in the Channel) and
Balmoral and Coromandel Swamps. These were
teeming with birds the swamps interesting
also on account of flooded ground [illegible]

lake at Groote. On the open swamps and on the lake were many SWANS, MOUNTAIN DUCK, GREY TEAL and a few BLACK DUCK. Also were PINK-EARED DUCK, MUSK DUCK and Finch 5 caught sight of a BLUE-WINGED [illegible]. HARN-HEADED and CRESTED [illegible], COOT and EASTERN SWAMPHEN were about while GULLS and WHISKERED TERNS were over the water. On the edges were considerable flocks of SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER and many WHITE-HEADED STILTS.

On the flooded paddocks were simply hundreds of WHITE-FACED HERONS in which were many [illegible] two YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL - a welcome variety. Accompanying was a small EGRET which had a warm buff back and throat — in fact a "paddy bird". I am writing in the Emu area. Rain which has completely ruined me.

One afternoon after lunch I slipped out to Bali's dam. It was a [illegible]

(1)

with many little hedges and the birds were
far more interesting than I is working
in the confines of our rooms.

I stopped the car at the fence
on the top of the hill and began descending to
the bridge. Then I walked obliquely
down the hill to the right so that I
came to the lower reeds down from
the road. The soundscape which I had
hoped to see unfold then and I was
well rewarded as the sight of a pair
of BLUE-WINGED DUCK with 3 young - the
first record of breeding in the district.
Perched in a willow, only down on
the reeds I watched the family for
some time and while the males
displayed to the female. This visit in June
in the Emu EASTERN SWAMP HENS
were also on this part of the dam and
I eventually moved along across the
road to survey the larger dam
which was - had grown in extension
and now covered much more than the

and in conjunction with water weeds growing in from the edges. In the dam was a SPUR-WINGED GOOSE a few BLACK DUCK and GREY TEAL hundreds of swans, DUSKY MOORHEN and a COOT. 5 sand grouse in the air and another pair of BLUE-BILLED DUCK. There were more than a hundred HOARY-HEADED GREBES and about a hundred LITTLE GREBES. The latter keeping in amongst the water weeds, while the former frequented the open water round the edges were SPUR-WINGED PLOVER, WHITE-FACED HERON and a WHITE-NECKED HERON; on the dam were a few LITTLE PIED CORMORANTS. There were at last six GULL-BILLED TERNS - the largest number I have seen at any time in the district. In the reeds were hearing chant REED-WARBLERS, while over the whole swamp and dam hundreds of SWALLOWS. This was a most rewarding mid-week outing.

29.viii.09 Exactly a week later I made another visit to Bain Dam but had

quite [illegible] good day. Birds present
which were not [illegible] in previous weeks
were the MOUNTAIN DUCK MERGANSER, SHORT-
-BILLED SANDPIPER and at last a pair
of SWAMP HARRIERS one of which was [illegible]
as it rose and hovered as Kestrels.
Duck under [illegible] a party of [illegible] Birds
concentrating where one boils by reeds where
there must either have been a nest
a feeding platform

2.2.49. The Lewisons arrive (4th), after surgery
(20) Joan, Richard and I went down to
Glen Aire We were to stay with Mrs.
Wimpress down, who for a few [illegible] had
been interested in the birds of that
district having spent her girlhood there.
Our spirits were not very high (Joan
finds it difficult to [illegible] the Charleys Creek
Rd) and it was [illegible] with rain.
But this day dawned clear with
a soft gentle mysterious breeze. Later it
clouded over somewhat so that we
had alternate [illegible] light showers

After breakfast we went off over the sand-dunes to the coast — very rugged with sprays shooting up the cliffs. It was a very fine sight particularly when a PEREGRINE FALCON dived like a bullet down near above the cliffs. The pointed wind-blasted bushes at the edge of the cliff harboured many SINGING HONEYEATERS and SILVEREYES while in one bush I found a WRENS nest with two eggs in it. Out to sea was a single AUSTRALIAN GANNET.

On the Glen Huon flats were GOLDFINCHES, SPARROWS, STARLINGS, MAGPIES, MAGPIE LARKS and BROWN HAWKS. With picnic lunch we set off past Hadspen Vale into high timber where we immediately came upon many BLUE-WINGED PARROTS and CRIMSON ROSELLAS. Then a thrill — a female SATIN BOWER-BIRD dropped down into the gully from the bank above the road — only a flash but quite enough to identify it.

We turned right down the Gulf

Away road on which we first went through thick bush then a stretch of heath and moth banksia and then into an curious "clear open forest" which reminded me a bit of Yellow Jarkland We turned out the Blanket Bay Rd and followed up when we reached the Parker R where we sailed to the very end of the river. This day and then went for a walk up the river and returned by going up and back along the ridge. Birds seen were STRIATED THORNBILLS, GREY FANTAILS & RUFOUS FANTAIL & FAN-TAILED CUCKOO RED-TIPPED PARDALOTE HONEYEATER? RUFOUS BRISTLE-BIRD GREY-THRUSH, BEAUTIFUL FANTAIL, RED-BROWED FINCH OLIVE WHISTLER YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER, WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WREN DUSKY-WOODSWALLOW, JACKY WINTER (eddy ant ?) plain and the [illegible] BLACK BIRD. It was a most rewarding spot which we set to continue down the road to the right hand The road runs from the

then went into sand-dunes and it was there that I caught a glimpse of a TAWNY-CROWNED HONEYEATER. There were no birds except Ravens in the vicinity of the light house and we moved back to the bush. Then I and I walked through the stretch of scrub and came across a BRONZE-WINGED PIGEON heard CRESCENT HONEYEATERS, RAVENS, and a fine pair of WHITE-EARED HONEYEATERS. Later on we left the cars at the top of that grey sand gully on Mr Blackwood's and walked ahead down the road. There were BROWN THORNBILLS YELLOW-WINGED HONEYEATERS, TREE-MARTINS and a pair of KING PARROTS feeding and giving very high whistles.

13.2.44 The day we went by car round Hindley Vale and on the lagoons and hundreds of swans a few LITTLE PIED CORMORANTS and WHITE-FRONTED HERONS. We lunched among the ti-trees near the

mouth of the river 2. and was seen immediately struck by the various calls of the STONE WATTLE BIRD We went for a walk after lunch up in the bush on to dunes and saw a BUFF-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE, SPOTTED PARDALOTE and WHITE-THROATED TREE-CREEPER We were considerably surprised to see SNIPE rise up from the dunes, and thought not surprised thrilled to see a BRUSH BRONZEWING.

We then crossed the river and walked by the river and meadows in the direction of Glen Nine. PIPITS were seen on the grass and WHITE-FRONTED CHATS were heard almost of us in small parties. LITTLE GREBE, COOT, DUSKY MOORHEN, MUSK DUCK and EASTERN SWAMP HEN were on the river. Over the reed-beds flew a SWAMP HARRIER. Though feeding this part of the day did not reward us with any thing of interest. On the way back we added SCARLET ROBIN and GREY CURRAWONG to the list

We left Glen Ume after an evening meal having had a first-rate weekend. I had always wanted to explore that part of the district and had ample opportunity now to do so. On Burton's back-seat, on our return, a Bosbok ewe sat on the road in our lights, making little of the last bird calling for the day's life-list.

2.3.49. The previous day I heard of a flock of 100 - 150 Cape Barren Geese in the Limmen District. So I went to the police who had seen them - John Howard a rabbit-hunter and got directions. They appeared simple so that at 3.30 am I got up (Tom + Michael being at Mataranka) and sallied forth at 4.0. It was of course dark and at the 5 Mile Rides whisps of fog commenced which gradually increased in intensity. After 40 kms I could not find my turning so returned and spent half-an-hour trying to find a living soul. Eventually I was off on the Darwin road and finding

no land mark arrived at Alexandra at 5.30 as dawn broke!

So I came back slowly through the thick mist peering for any land marks. Birds seen were a STRAW-NECKED IBIS, MAGPIES in thousands, WILLIE-WAGTAILS, GOLDFINCHES, SWALLOWS a SCARLET ROBIN, BROWN HAWKS and a SWAMP HARRIER. I stopped at a swamp by the road and beside many pairs of SPUR-WINGED PLOVER there were two adult NATIVE COMPANIONS with one young. They stalked away as I followed them and eventually took flight. A large tree, just by and the swamp was birdless.

Flying along the sugar-cane plantations by the road were many LORIKEETS - by their comparatively soft screech I think they were probably Purple-crowned. So I then set off for home in a pouring through continuous fog, arriving at 7.40, and having a hot meal for the rest of the day.

later that evening I ran up to

guide and spent a long time going over the route in detail. So in the morning I rose before 4.0 and set off at 4.30 - this time with no search for [illegible]. But about 5 miles out on the Kidmore road I got a puncture taking quarter of an hour in fog and darkness to change the wheel.

But I arrived at the appointed spot just as it was getting light enough to see at 5 ac. A lake stretched into the mist on the right from the bridge from which the calls of duck could be heard. So after a cup of coffee I set off with high hopes. BLACK DUCK TEAL, BLUE-WINGED STEVENLER were there but no geese. WHITE-FRONTED COOT, RED-CAPPED DOTTEREL, SPUR-WINGED PLOVERS, WHITE-FACED HERONS, GULLS and SWANS lined the edge of the lake. I stalked the duck and got about 15 yards from them - a distance which would have pleased a shooter if it had not been

a Sanctuary.

I walked by the lake for about a mile and came upon some WOOD DUCK, MOUNTAIN DUCK, a large mixed flock of LITTLE and BLACK-HEADED CORELLA and four YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILLS — but as yet it was very late and I turned back to the car, and returned, passing that elusive "Endfield" post-box as I reached the Dennallen road and got back again through fog at 7.50. The slatting had made my biceps femoris extremely stiff and I was even more good for nothing than I had been on the previous day.

12.3.49. (68) Returning from Melbourne on Friday I went to the School for the week-end. On Saturday a party was arranged under Mr. Pender. The hire of a car I think limited our numbers so that with three in the front and six in the back the car slowly crept off, much like a tram-tram beetle.

It was a beautiful day — a clear sky, no wind and still more than

very warm. Our first call was at Lava lake where we were informed that many of the duck had left. The lake still was double its size but the recent exhaustive heavy rains. On the edge we first met the WHITE-FACED HERON, PLOVER, BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL and ... At first sight there were not many duck, rather a BLACK DUCK and GREY TEAL with an occasional MUSK DUCK and a few BLUE-WINGED SHOVELLER were seen rocked up as we neared towards the further end and there we saw MOUNTAIN DUCK; many LITTLE TREE CORMORANTS and a STRAW-NECKED IBIS. When we were nearly round, when we had the sun behind us we picked up several CHESTNUT TEAL, a PINK-EARED DUCK, a small flock of MANET GEESE and three BLUE-BILLED DUCK — a total of nine species which was not so bad. Also afloat were many COOT and STILT-FEATHERED BIRDS.

Around the lake on the paddocks and in the sugar-cane plantations were

MAGPIE-LARKS, MAGPIES RAVENS, RED-BACKED PARRETS (strangely common here and at the Yan Yangs) EASTERN ROSELLAS, YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILLS, WILLIE WAGTAILS, NOISY MINERS PIPITS and of course SPARROWS and STARLINGS

All piling into the car we set off for the Yan Yangs. Before reaching them we turned left and entered Wootoomanata property. There we drove through the very "open" dry forest and passed a LITTLE GREBE sitting placidly on a small weed-covered dam. Passing the homestead a flock of WHITE COCKATOOS flew up from the garden, as a WHISTLING EAGLE flew overhead being harassed in turn by Magpies and Ravens. We ate our lunch (steak) over a fire and boiled a billy of unbearably muddy water which made a strange tea. The sun was warm on a bare back and it was really good to be back by Caselles dam.

We set off on a circuit of the dam and picked up WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATERS,

WATTLE BIRDS, BROWN THORNBILLS, LITTLE (?) LORIKEETS, KOOKABURRAS, in the red-gums along the banks. Little bee-eaters, SWALLOWS and FAIRY MARTINS. In the dam there were more than a few Black duck, Little Pied Cormorants and Black-fronted Dotterels on the mud-flats. On the further side on a small stretch of the bank (little more than 200 yards in length) I found 4 GREY-CROWNED BABBLERS where he had been known to frequent for the past ten years.

We then set off into what is known as the "wood" a patch of native and scrub which has become known to the school ornithologists which has as one of their rare localities where many species can always be found within a small area. This time it did not let us down. A list of those to added to my life-list but four are — GREY FANTAIL, STRIATED PARDALOTE, SPECKLED WARBLER, DUSKY WOOD-SWALLOW, RAINBOW-BIRDS (many of them sitting on prominent boughs shaking their wings

a BLACK-FACED CUCKOO SHRIKE

A butter flies. NEW HOLLAND HONEYEATERS, RED-BROWED FINCH BRONZE-WINGED PIGEONS, GREY THRUSH, SPINY-CHEEKED HONEYEATER

Returning to the camp we came across a beautiful flock of DIAMOND FIRETAILS.

Into the car again and the boys came down many times onto the springs with a cracking thud as we went across rocky roads & tracks. On the plains were BROWN HAWKS, KESTRELS, WHITE-FRONTED CHATS and GOLDFINCHES. When we arrived we nearly bogged, so left the car on the main road and walked into the gorge. And there, at the entrance another of those rare treasures was found by Joan and I found when we went there in September (?) 1947.

Immediately we got there, we found CRIMSON ROSELLAS, WHITE-THROATED TREE-CREEPERS, SCARLET ROBIN, WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATERS, WRENS, YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATERS, BROWN THORNBILLS and a SATIN FLYCATCHER. As we walked up the gorge we heard a GREY CURRAWONG, SILVER-EYES, WHITE-EARED HONEYEATERS, BLACKBIRDS and a GOLDEN-WHISTLER. We also had a fine view of

a wallaby bounced up the precipitous sides of the gorge.

And so home after one of the best days in bird days I have had.

10.4.49. 23 Tom Thiele & I set out in the morning for Hinchinbrook Island. It was a cold grey day with occasional misty rain. The first bird of interest was a SCARLET ROBIN at Davis's Farm — about a mile north of the bush. I have seen very few this year so they are no doubt abundant now on the plains.

In the bush we saw the "regulars" — KOOKABURRA, YELLOW ROBIN, CRIMSON ROSELLA, NATIVE THRUSH, and BLUE-WREN. A WHITE-THROATED TREE-CREEPER flew off the metal road into the bush. The Ocean Road, as usual, was where we heard a RUFOUS BRISTLE-BIRD.

When we arrived I immediately went for a look at the "lagoon" but there was very little of interest on it — a few BLACK DUCK, LITTLE GREBE, a solitary HOARY-HEADED GREBE, COOT, and DUSKY MOORHEN — both with immatures without shields on their foreheads and a pair of EASTERN SWAMPHEN.

All these birds during the fineness of the
many domestic ducks on the water, were
less timid than they usually are and
with the glasses, excellent views of the
details of their plumages were obtained as
well as the Coot diving for waterweed and
the bushy Moorhen eating blades of grass.
In the trees were the (same) noisy
flock of YELLOW-WINGED HONEYEATERS.

In the afternoon we went to the mouth
of the river on which were a pair of SWANS, a
few LITTLE PIED CORMORANTS and a SILVER GULL. Some
went for a walk into the Sanctuary. There
were BLUE WRENS, WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WRENS, SILVEREYE
and BROWN THORNBILLS. A WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER
appeared at close range in the garden when the
lagoon was covered with darting SWALLOWS.

A very rainy day — very different
from that at times at the beginning of
April last year which was almost a record.
But the weather was quite open and
did not go far in search of birds other
than in the most sedentary manner

To

20.4.49 REVIEW OF THE 1948-1949 SEASON.

On the whole it has been a wet season and a good season for birds. Summer saw large quantities of duck on all the areas of water which were abundant and full — the Hardhead can be mentioned in particular. The main item of interest was the breeding of the Blue-billed Duck a unique event as far as I can gather. The large areas of water have attracted large numbers of Sharp-Tailed Sand Pipers, White-headed Stilts and Whiskered Terns while such birds as the Gull-billed Terns, Spoonbills and Egrets have been more than normally in evidence. Quail were particularly numerous until the very heavy March rains since when the shooters have complained of their scarcity.

There has been a good flowering of the gums this year which has attracted many flocks of Lorikeets,

Such I have so far identified as Purple-crowned only. Others may have been present too. Budgerigahs turned up too and though I have seen only few Blue-winged Parrots it is more than probable that this is because I have not been out so much.

On the other hands I think that insect-eaters have been less common – particularly the Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and the Dusky-Wood-swallow. Even the swallows are not as numerous as usual.

As far as I myself am concerned the year has lacked the great opportunity offered by immunization trips – only two days in the Otway Mine. Photographing the Bristlebird's nest, the Gull rookery, the trip to Langkoop and the day spent at the school are the high spots of the year. Apart from these I have mainly concentrated on the swamps and plains

which has reaped dividends in experience of these birds. But I have neglected the bush — only really seen at Glen Aire — and I have left with me at the end of the season a feeling of dissatisfaction and I must so plan next season that I see the district more in proportion.

May 29-31 (33) At about 3.30 on a Saturday afternoon I set off for Apollo Bay via home. It was a pleasant sunny afternoon [illegible] and the outlook for a trip with the fishermen next morning looked bright.

At Deans Marsh one STRAW-NECKED IBIS stood lonely in a swamp near which were feeding pairs of MOUNTAIN DUCKS. The only interest [illegible] home was a SPOTTED QUAIL-THRUSH which hurried off the road as the car came round a corner. Below the Pacific [illegible] were two immature PACIFIC GULLS

Near Wye River a solitary WHITE-FACED HERON stood in the rock pools on the shore which reminded me of the Queensland birds. At Kennet River I went up a wood cutters track which rose steeply to 700 or so feet above the small settlement. It was magnificent bush at the end of the road and being high up the side of the ridge it was notable how little undergrowth there was - a very marked difference to the gullies which were thick with tree-ferns. It was getting dark and apart from a few anxious thoughts turning on a very treacherous surface the return to the Ocean Road was made uneventfully and with the birds silent and hidden in the dusk

I got up at 6.30 am. next morning at the A.B.C. where Tas Bowden had worked after me very well. After a breakfast of poached eggs I went forth and found several of the fishermen gathered by the

an most reluctant to go out — they found the weather was bad and the boats which were on the spot were unavailable until absent fishermen had been found & they had made arrangements with skipper Tom Berry. however the other was one whose boat was unavailable & I went with George Harrison and Frank C.

Gulls were on the beach in numbers and a few followed us out to the fishing grounds where there were quite large flocks on the water which rose and fed on refuse thrown from the boat. Our first excitement was a LITTLE PENGUIN which we nearly ran down but dived in front of the boat and disappeared. Then the albatrosses were about us, at first in small numbers which increased during the morning until there were

literally hundreds. The first were BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSSES and I assumed that the majority would be. However at least ⅔ were the SHY-ALBATROSS whose white cap and pale bill was distinctly seen. later in the morning a young WANDERING ALBATROSS joined the others with not much more than the centre of its back white.

Hawisian suddenly called out "What's that — I have never seen one before?" It was a SKUA and I was evidently very lucky to see it. A single CRESTED TERN followed the ship piping all single note. A dark bird feeding among the gulls turned out to be a SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER which very soon flew off and disappeared. Very few GANNETS were seen — a pair on the water and a few diving in the distance. That was the sum of the sea-birds seen before we got back at 10.30 am. Nine all told.

four of which were only single specimens and which added four more to the local list that I saw this morning I learnt a little in conversation with the fishermen who apparently also see SOOTY ALBATROSSES, PRIONS and DIVING-PETRELS. A very success[illegible] outing even if we did just get home before the [illegible] set off before lunch and twisted up the wild road. GOLDFINCH and SCARLET ROBINS were in the cleared parts; GREY CURRAWONGS and CRIMSON ROSELLAS in the thicker parts. At Barrawanna I turned down to Upper Gellibrand and found it to be a deep valley, cleared and farmed. I had lunch at a turnoff on the road up again. In the bush there were YELLOW ROBINS GREY THRUSHES, BROWN THORNBILLS, WRENS, WHITE-EARED HONEYEATERS and I heard the TREE-CREEPER. BRISTLE-BIRDS were heard in the gullies and one heard in the

cleared paddocks were MAGPIES
That was all in the bush (except
for BUTCH-BIRDS and RED-BROWED FINCHES on
Mt Sabine) and at Ball's Dam I
stopped for a cup of tea. SWANS, EASTERN
SWAMPHENS, LITTLE & HARY-HEADED GREBES
and [illegible] — no duck,
no gulls

7.7.49. The [illegible] evening — arriving a week
spent in Melbourne — I had spent with
[illegible] and who has been
[illegible]
We had a very pleasant chat — about
people and birds and places. I asked
at the end how one went Crake-hunting
(Bryant + Amos are the two people who
know most about these birds in Australia,
and Amos suggested I get out with
[illegible]
hand and water "up-work" - indefinitely.

The next morning I picked up Bruce, and

[illegible] in grounds of Mount Park Mental

Home is a large swamp of reeds. Near

was a flock of GALLINULES — birds much

like [illegible] but much [illegible] and

with [illegible] is a bit of a

[illegible]

It was in this neighbourhood, in

the previous few seasons that Bryant &

Knos had studied and photographed

the SPOTTED CRAKE. So we waded in —

self in rotten sand-shoes and trousers

in a spot that Knos considered

[illegible] we cut out a "sight line", trampling

down the reeds some twenty yards

in length and a foot or so wide. I

cut an dry reeds at one end and

Bruce stood at the other and we

waited. Under out of the wind it

was quite warm. All sounds from the

[illegible]

[illegible] the sound of the reed-bed - the
rustle of the tops in the wind, the smallest
noises of water - the BLUE-WRENS, and
from time to time the varied calls of
birds -- and like water over the
[illegible]
the watchers on the hope of advancing [illegible]
a third water like the call of a swan.
Eventually a bird poked its head
out and back -- [illegible] a second
then a dark head and neck and
it was [illegible] than me [illegible]
his end to that I saw a clear channel
the weeds. He had just begun to
swim backwards, [illegible] the reeds when
he [illegible] in a call like that and
[illegible] from the water an egg. Another
was [illegible] hearing and above a foot or
so in was a nest of nine reeds woven

as fast I could the eggs dried, pitiful
little remains. It was an unusual
day, an unusual time and I
[illegible] for a SPOTLESS CRAKE.
Bruce immediately went off to search the
tussocks where they usually build, leaving
me to watch. A bird came out
was off again into the reeds - perhaps two
seconds. [illegible]
reeds like a flash! And once -
a birds beady eye was seen for a
[illegible]
perhaps four seconds right of a small
black bird — and Bruce tells me that
it "looks like watching for Crakes".
At 9.30 a beautiful sunrise.

which I had seen from the road and
Dick & Knight saw, with cries of
various descriptions. In the way, at
[illegible] we saw a male FLAME ROBIN.
[illegible]
as well as a 'YELLOW ROBIN. Birds were
heard but few were seen from the
[illegible]

The swamp appeared on close
inspection to be apparently good for
cranes. A drain [illegible] deep it
was but had a thick growth of plant
reeds a foot or two high. The sandy
track path of an unidentified creature,
no cranes, naturally, though were seen.
The only birds seen were a few
EASTERN SWAMPHENS and SPUR-WINGED PLOVER
In the open areas in the
surrounding paddocks were RAVENS, MAGPIE-LARKS,
MAGPIES and many were, also NEW
MINERS. Over the swamp one, circled
two ALBATROSS, and high, floated a pair
of WHISTLING EAGLES.

For the most part I carried Michael but quite a part of the time he staggered behind me, either clinging to the tussocks or crying out for help from the midst of a bramble thicket. So progress was slow and I came to the conclusion that we'd turn back for possibilities

The next Final Barrow I. I was past in par ent. There were STRIATED THORNBILLS and BUFF-RUMPS, the latter calling from within the reeds of the swamp. A few RED-BROWED FINCHES mixed with the Wrens. Near the river, in dead trees were a MOUNTBURRA, a pair of Tasmanian CRIMSON ROSELLAS and a pair of EASTERN ROSELLAS. So, finally back to the hut where GREY SHRIKE-THRUSHES and WHITE-EARED HONEYEATERS were calling

13th August 1949. I brought Bruce Amos back from Hobart, & [illegible] had asked me to shoot him the Cape Barren Goose, Bustard, Swan and Black Swan. A tall order — in fact its first was quite out of the question. So we started off as soon as we could after lunch.

We made first for the bay on the west shore of L. Grace and then to the swamps at Bashtard. Nothing of particular interest was seen — many COOTS, GREBES and BLACK GULLS as well as a HOARY-HEADED GREBE, LITTLE PIED and LITTLE BLACK CORMORANTS, a few SPUR-WINGED PLOVERS, SWANS, MOUNTAIN DUCK, MUSK DUCK and SWALLOWS.

We then passed BULLOCK SWAMP on the way to WOOD WOOD — and there we saw a PALLID CUCKOO, an early bird. We visited the gull rookery and saw the islands were well tenanted with gulls. So we waded out and found eggs & young. Each Command — [illegible]

[illegible] eggs, a few had [illegible] and many were [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] the lakes edge were RED-CAPPED DOTTERELS and further away PIPITS and WHITE-FRONTED CHATS and a single WHITE-FACED HERON.

Then we went on northwards round the lake where we passed WILLIE-WAGTAILS, many SCARLET ROBINS of both sexes, MAGPIE-LARKS, a few YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILLS, and many RAVENS and MAGPIES. We pulled up [illegible] at the turn off to the [illegible] rookery which I had supposed to [illegible] [illegible] was thick with gulls and also a group of PELICANS were sitting in the centre. So we hurried our tea and drove more than half a mile to the lake's edge.

[illegible]

a more advanced stage - many
more had three eggs in them. We
marvelled at the variability of the
eggs, in shape, size and colour - there
were several "freak" eggs. In the
centre of the island were the
pelicans' nests with one egg and
with two eggs. The birds swam
back and forth a hundred yards
from us. [illegible] Many
swans' nests had with 5 eggs and
one with three eggs. These birds
kept well away from us. In the
water. We walked up and down
looking at the large number of eggs
and nests while the gulls screamed
loudly above us. Finally as the
light was beginning to go we left
to wade back to the car.

It was getting dark so there
[illegible]

[illegible] What-ever they? We found them [illegible] a ploughed field. We watched them for a while and one of them even did a few steps of its dance. Then Bruce [illegible] and [illegible] also. [illegible] his requests.

In August 1944 Bruce and I left at [illegible] 50 [illegible] Balls Dam was passed as it was getting light and we could see on it DUSKY MOORHEN, EASTERN SWAMPHEN, LITTLE GREBE, SWANS and a few MOUNTAIN DUCK. On through Leeton, where we saw the EASTERN ROSELLA and NOISY MINERS, to the [illegible] at Griffith where we inspected BUTCHER-BIRDS were calling as well as the GREY SHRIKE-THRUSH. Bruce

SWANNING [illegible] over the WALKS,
RAVENS and MAGPIES were in the grass in
a [illegible] paddock [illegible] swamp
were [illegible] a few [illegible] SPUR-WINGED
PLOVERS and a few EASTERN SWAMPHEN.
When we had reached the other side
we got a good view of a BLACK [illegible]
KITE, particularly when it alighted on
a limb. It was my first record
for the district and a good early
[illegible] for the year. [illegible]
round a pair of LITTLE PIED CORMORANTS
flew over, three SWAMP HARRIES beat up
and down the reeds, a WHITE-FACED HERON
croaked over us and a pair of BLACK
DUCK rose from the reeds, circled and
[illegible] again. [illegible]
flew and disappeared into the [illegible].
Returning to car BRISTLE-BIRDS were calling
in the [illegible] and [illegible]
or at any time that day but heard

[illegible] we were about to get into the car a BATCH-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE flew off to the left.

[illegible] drove on through forest near Bawanmaga. CRIMSON ROSELLAS, GREY FANTAILS, YELLOW ROBIN, BLUE WRENS, BROWN THORNBILLS and BLUE WRENS were seen [illegible] were frequent most of the [illegible] BLUE WHISTLER in beautiful breed [illegible] of the day was a pair of WHITE GOSHAWKS at Bawanmaga quickly followed by another solitary bird. Bruce was driving, [illegible] the Kwila [illegible] very many. [illegible] MOUNTAIN THRUSH nearly ran under the car. We stopped at the sound of YELLOW-TAILED [illegible] RED-BROWED FINCHES were seen but not in such numbers as usual in the

down Turkeis Track, had a cup of tea and returned to the main road and so down to Apollo Bay where of course were SILVER GUMS and far out to sea in the

Hans filled the car with petrol, oil, water [illegible] on the Ocean Rd. We stopped at the house of a chap called Stones [illegible] were told could lead us to the Bower-bird it was an old chap who had lived in that part of the bush a. his life and amused me by carving the bower-birds [illegible] came into the house and stained his floors and tables as well as scaring the cats out of their lives For a month or two in the winter they made a nuisance of themselves on the roof [illegible] and a day or two previous to my leaving had disported and he came up to say [illegible] could be found We passed the C. River turning and started to descend that [illegible]

Two Blue green birds attracted our attention and Tony, we were quick out of the car we saw no more of them so we went down to the Harden Car turning and returned up the gully. Then [illegible] BOWER BIRDS up off the road into the scrub. We watched them 4-10 females and one male in the trees and then were off. We had lunch [illegible] Also saw many other birds. PARRET, FANTAIL and a female ROSE ROBIN, [illegible] YELLOW-WINGED HONEYEATERS were about and [illegible] was a BROWN-HEADED HONEYEATER.

After lunch a walk up the road revealed that the flock was moving up the gully just keeping one bend of the road ahead of the drivers. Very [illegible]

[illegible] went down the Chasm as it is
Blanket Bay [illegible] but it is
a rocky [illegible]
Beautiful Finetails were [illegible]
[illegible]
four. [illegible]
was particularly birdless; all that
seen here were KOOKABURRAS, WHITE-THROATED
TREE-CREEPERS, TREE MARTINS, WHITE-THROATED SCRUB-
WRENS, a RED WATTLE-BIRD and a GREY CURRAWONG
We went on along the Branxholm Bay
road which passed through heath land but
it soon got too much for the car and
we turned back.

Descending the gully again we
[illegible]
[illegible]
Picked myself! Then on through
[illegible]

many YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILLS and
MAGPIE-LARKS were seen. Up the Lawers
Hill-Ka where two of the black rabbits
[illegible]
and Besides hearing the exotic bird
[illegible] HOODED ROBINS
we had nothing more to report before
arriving home at 6.15.

It was a highly successful
day — my reputation as a ranger
was growing. A day of light wind
[illegible]
sky.

Bruce & Amos went round Cstac.

Bruce had four more days to see
birds in [illegible]
wet and he walked through the gardens
down by the creek. He reported a party
[illegible]
the next day. In the afternoon
went to Barangaroo in the tea-tree swamp

THE SWAMP -- looking S.E.

The swamp -- ...sbury E.

[illegible] on a day's bird outing. We ab:
[illegible] for campan, pr Foam and
: lake Illicha of her banks accustomed
a curiva. Man birds that
our presence crimson NOISY MINERS, EASTERN
ROSELLAS, FAIRY MARTINS, SWALLOWS, GREY BITCHE R-
BIRDS. NATIVE THRUSHES MAGPIES, [illegible]
and KOOKABURRAS. Flew [illegible]
? rel of along the northern edge of remnative
A pair of SWAMP HARRIERS were beating up and a
down over the reeds. One hovering and [illegible]

in the air in fantastic aerobatics. Higher above a Brown Falcon on the dead limb of a tall tree sat a little PIED CORMORANT and another sat on a post in the stream. A BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE was chased over the stream by a small hawk. PALLID CUCKOOS were heard in all directions. When I reached the Barwon R. there were BLUE-WRENS BROWN THORNBILLS and WHITE-BROWED SCRUB-WRENS in large numbers in the shrubs along the bank.

I crossed the river by a fallen tree

The Barwon River

Tussock [illegible]

Barcoonk [illegible]

I crossed back [illegible] river and returned [illegible]

WHISTLING EAGLE [illegible]

and at the other end [illegible]

GREY CURRAWONG [illegible]

edge of the bush [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] exposure. Then I started to wade into
a swamp. All went well for a while — the
water [illegible] thick (probably
[illegible]
[illegible] and I was up to
my [illegible] EASTERN SWAMP HENS and
SORA RAILS were in a frenzy, running
[illegible] and [illegible]
[illegible] search for them. SPUR-WINGED
PLOVERS flew anxiously over — then [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

I would call a few
CRANES to the water but they were
[illegible] deep. Eventually I reached
[illegible] and [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] rocks! I climbed a tree
and [illegible]

a water where I could look down and had a good view around. Saw lots of birds but not very close. I lay out for some time listening to the EARED HONEYEATERS in the bush behind and watching a pair of GANG GANGS and a solitary WHITE COCKATOO slowly south to the bush.

Had that is all there was for the day. A most unimpressive although the short time I spent on the other side of the river does not reward. However we did see WHITE IBIS on Ball's Dam on our own

November 2nd 1949. I left home for the R.A.A.F. Concentration Camp at Hobart. Three whole days had been spent at home and little hard work was done. A walk to Allendale and down the George R. with Jean and Audrey Newell produced a few birds — YELLOW TAILED BLACK COCKATOO, GANG-GANGS, DOVE WHISTLER a few of the usual bush birds. A pair of KING

PETRELS were feeding on the pinchers of the lobsters around behind the Pacific Hotel and excellent views of them were obtained. A few SHEARWATERS were seen out to sea and as far as could be determined two SOOTY SHEARWATERS were among them. There was a flock of CRESTED TERN on the rocks and with them three SILVER GULLS. There were the sooty spells rain during the whole time there despite the fact that the fishing fleet was at work and clearing their fish at the pier. Richard learnt his first bird name — KOOKABURRA which he shouted whenever it called and pronounced it well.

Slept on the 7.15 bus to Geelong — train to Melbourne + so to S.H.A. We had a good flight over above the clouds until we approached the Tasmanian coast when they closed under us more able to see the country more clearly with the below us. The clouds came down and the plane dropped lower and lower until it dodged between the mountains to land at Launceston Aerodrome where a DOTTEREL flew off the runway.

Michael Shanland met me at Tibet and I spent half-an-hour or so talking to him at Hookers before dinner. Then the Ross Gosha Morrison turned up, Ive and Tess Bryant Peter Moore from Nsw, Max Barron (Syd), Carol Jackson (Melb) & and Elsa Prescott (Melb). We had dinner together and went off to the Theatre where the Congress was opened by Lady Zuvia. She was followed by some excellent colour films of birds by Gosha Morrison.

Nov 3rd 1964 The Congress resumed at 10.0 am and adjourned at 10.45 for a civic reception by the Lord Mayor's daughter. The Congress continued in the afternoon. In the evening we went to Michael Shanland's house for drinks and food. From there we went over to Tess Tonys where we were shown Norman Laird's colour films of the Macquarie Island expedition — unedited and the first ~~publicised~~ public showing of the films. It was a superb show and the highlight of the Congress to date.

Nov. 4th 1949. Congress resumed at 10 o'clock
very several matters each took us to lunch.
The afternoon was free until the evening
party walked through the Botanic Gardens
each showing first sightings of
Tasmanian birds SILVER GULLS and a
few PACIFIC GULLS were in the harbour, with
in the evening of course were SOOTY-WINGED
PLOVERS — altogether the most common bird
in the country. Also seen were SWALLOWS,
PAINTED QUAILS, YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILLS, SCARLET
ROBINS, PIPITS STRIATED PARDALOTES, NOISY MINERS,
RAVENS and DUSKY WOOD-SWALLOWS. Another
a BROWN-HEADED HONEYEATER was found in
the fringe of a gum, with the next call.
Later the bird was found a closed
YELLOW-THROATED HONEYEATER. In the
flowering Blue Gums were several SWIFT
PARROTS. Introduced birds seen were
STARLINGS SPARROWS, GOLDFINCHES and
BLACKBIRDS. The country is silent at its
best of low wail which is a
Carrion of the Desert.

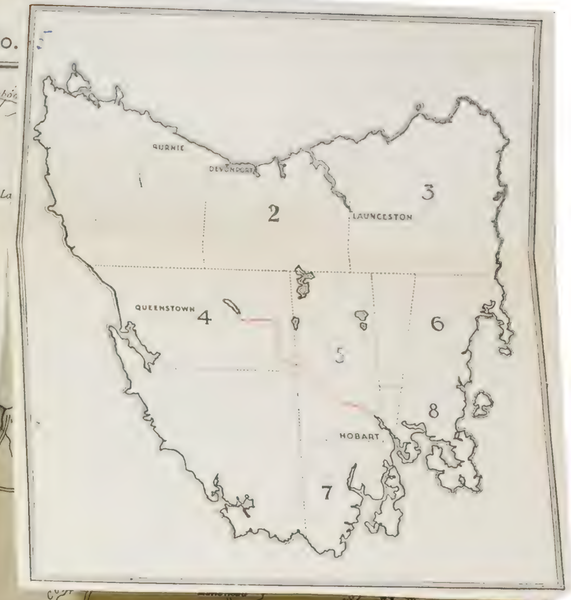
November 4th 1944 We embarked in a boat at 8.0 am and started up the Derwent Valley. We followed the winding tidal river with its large bays. Many Wrekin started a cackling and everywhere were calling and birds flying as we went. Spur-winged Plover were plentiful and the TASMANIAN NATIVE HEN were frequently seen. EASTERN SWAMP-HEN and COOT were on the shores while on the water were LITTLE PIED CORMORANTS, BLACK DUCK and CHESTNUT TEAL. Overhead two BITTERNS were seen, standing still with their heads pointing skywards.

We went North west up the Derwent gradually rising in undulating country, and passing through Bridgewater, New Norfolk, Hamilton and Ouse. New Norfolk is a very typical English village with its oasts. The country in fact was very English -- orchards and hop-gardens with hawthorn hedges. Many of the hop-gardens. In this country were [illegible] EASTERN

MAP No. 4

SEE MAP No. 2

MAP No.



Reference

Main Roads shewn
Arterial and other Roads
Through mileage from Hobart — 112 / 112
From Launceston
Railway crossings
Aerodromes
Good fishing

Scale of Miles 0 5 10

THWAITES HOBART

ROSELLA TREE-MARTIN. BLUE-WRENS. SKYLARKS and the
Australian SPURWINGED PLOVER.

We stopped at Ruse for tea and
Cakes. A quick walk to the bridge found a
flock of SILVEREYES, singing lustily
Now & then heard them on the main-land
[illegible] because a river had gone through since
the bridges. So we went an alternative
[illegible]
[illegible]
Tawakeh the GREY FANTAIL was heard and the
[illegible] THRUSH was found.
The road led across the Plateau to Lord
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] CICADA-STRIKES were heard as were NATIVE THRUSHES [illegible] Quickly round the bush. CLINKING CURRAWONGS were seen down towards DERWENT BRIDGE. Also seen and heard were the YELLOW WATTLE-BIRD, [illegible]. Near the lake I was surprised to see a [illegible] In the evening a camp-fire was held and Roy Wheeler showed us his coloured masses of [illegible] works, distributed them and a good time was had by all.

November 5th 1949 The next morning I was up [illegible] a cup of tea and biscuits arrive at 7.0 am. [illegible]

went up the Lake to Naivasha Hut at the
farther end. On the way up we saw on
the beach an ant-eater & a BLACK CORMORANT. Over
the water were two Silver Gulls and a LARGE
[illegible]

We had an early lunch at the hut
and walked from there to Kijabe Pass, between
the [illegible]
the track led through Sultan-grass swamps
[illegible]
and sassa grass. The ground was firm
[illegible]
fallen logs and practically no undergrowth.
A new bird seen on the way up was the
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

climb a bit much for him. He was

[illegible]

I soon found a nest with young in among an outgrowth of green twigs.

And so to bed, for time we were in

[illegible]

up. We were frozen by the time we arrived at the camp. We went to bed

November 7th 1949 I was out of bed at 4 am and off along the track. I met Harry Tarr a little way down and we spent

[illegible]

BLACK-HEADED HONEYEATERS were in [illegible]

call of the GOLDEN-BRONZE CUCKOO

After breakfast a party set out for Hupuna. It was a still climb through a mixed beech and eucalypt forest with the latter predominating. On the way up a FLUTTER ROBIN's nest was found with young in the

[illegible]

back a longer route. We soon got into the snow-grass and the climb became [illegible] up ridges and crossed small bluffs. Then [illegible]

[illegible]

There was not a breath of wind and a [illegible] descended [illegible]

Hugel Hut.

did not see much. We returned to camp, had a cup of tea and set off in the other direction. [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] and one due to the list was the GOSHAWK which was chasing and being chased by a PEREGRINE FALCON.

[illegible] breakfast [illegible] off in the [illegible] a little from camp. For a long time [illegible] saw nothing of interest. Then a WHITE-BACKED WOODPECKER flew into a nest and fed its mate. Almost immediately a GREEN WOODPECKER [illegible] then along the tracks a little a pair of BLACK-FACED CLIFF BUNTINGS [illegible] 120' in a large elm.

In the afternoon Bill Maddeleton and I set off in the same direction as in the early morning. I at last caught up with the STRONG-BILLED TREECREEPER [illegible] in [illegible].

seen. We walked to the shores of the lake. We thought we heard a Kookaburra call, (but were not that it was only imitating one) and saw instead a WHITE-FACED HERON.

[illegible] FLYCATCHERS, and
[illegible] We returned to
[illegible] CANNING CORRANGE[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] Bay to the west, [illegible]
[illegible] and we hoped to see it again.
[illegible] made several circuits up into the
[illegible] Flowering [illegible]
[illegible] but we found in that
[illegible]

We returned in the afternoon to the
same spot. We saw more FANTAIL THRUSHES
and another old nest on the [illegible]
[illegible] the "black-bird" but [illegible]
[illegible]

the Congress resumed with the President's Address and a paper by Hugh Wilson

[illegible] was given and cold. Part of this

[illegible]

camp — Charlie

well-cooked meals

greatly [illegible]

part of the camp

air as [illegible]

The birds [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] I have seen [illegible]
[illegible] Tasmania [illegible]
that one would expect. The [illegible]
[illegible] it exists we have seen [illegible]
[illegible] other hand the animals have been
[illegible]. An echidna seen twice and
2 Bennett's Wallabi, the Sand Wallabi, and
the Rat Kangaroo all of which are [illegible]
[illegible] marks, droppings and burrows of
the Wombat are very common in
the bush. Nothing of either Wild Cat
has been seen but the droppings
[illegible] are considered [illegible]
[illegible]

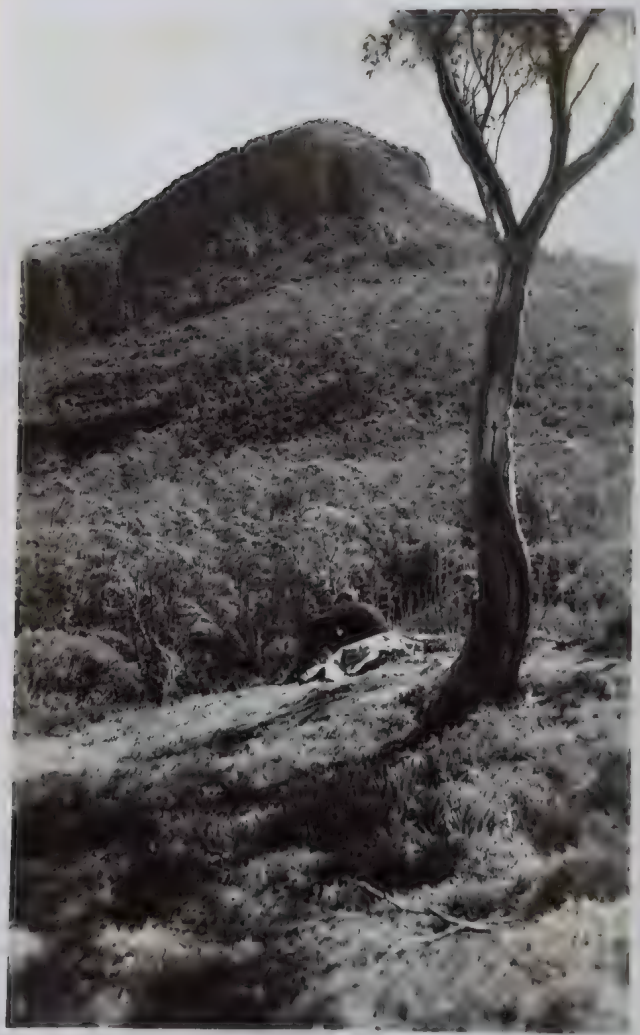
November 1st 1944. [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] Camp. [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

6

[illegible] Found
[illegible] Dusky Robin [illegible] to report — a
[illegible] back to camp.
[illegible] back to Hobart [illegible] about [illegible]
[illegible] Three with a Musk Duck seen [illegible]
[illegible] 45° at [illegible]

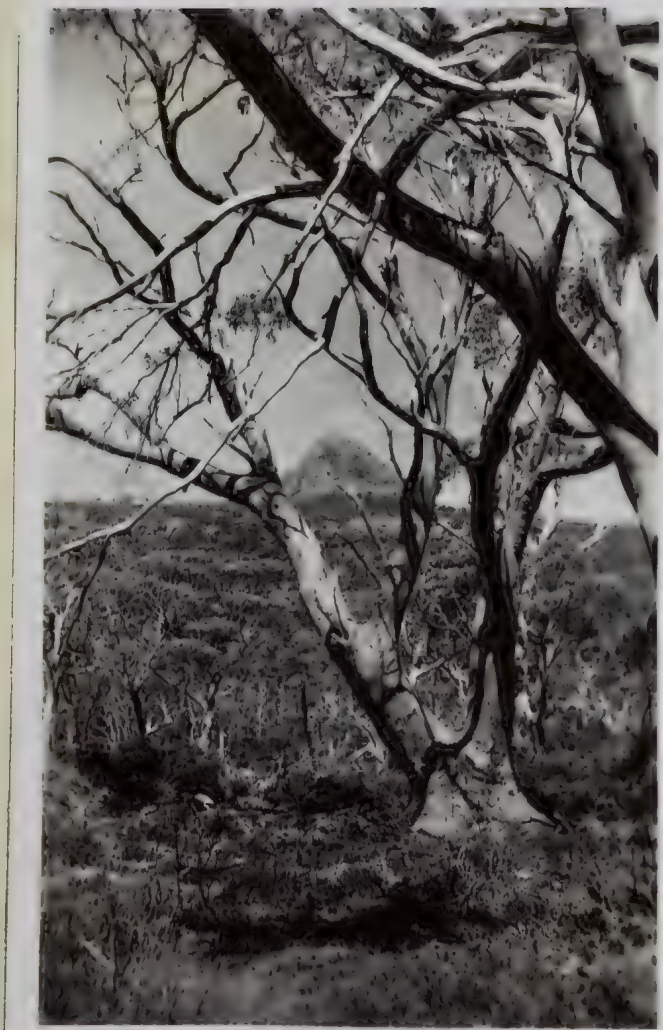
TRACK LEADING TO [illegible]

SCRUB-WREN.

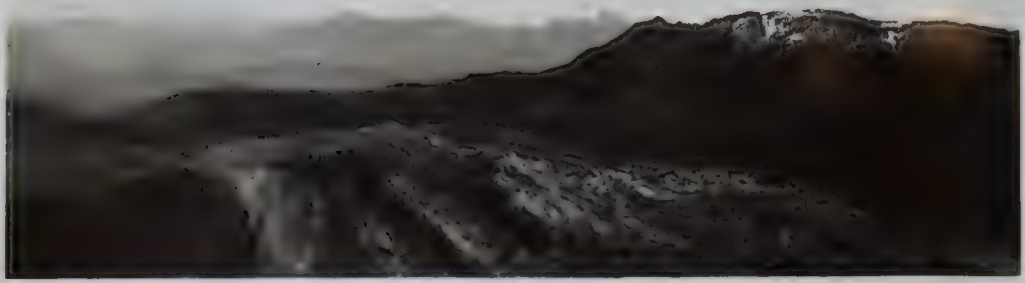


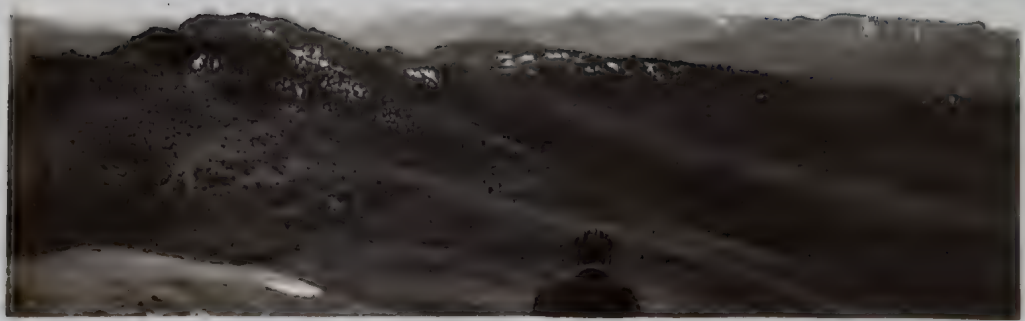
Mt Byron

Bill Middleton + Ken Wall



Mt. Olympus & snow gums





[illegible] from
[illegible] RUFUS

27th November. The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria spent the weekend in the district when I was asked to act as guide. They came up on the Saturday (26th), [illegible] half stayed at [illegible] and half [illegible] at the camp at Red Rock. There were about 18 of them. [illegible] 2 [illegible] Red Rock [illegible] about 7.30 am [illegible] for the day. [illegible] found [illegible] and spent a good night [illegible] the pines despite a [illegible] wind and some heavy showers. [illegible] mushrooms — some of the largest specimens I have ever seen growing under the pines.

We [illegible] Red Rock [illegible] the grass [illegible] with a few [illegible] showers. In the pines were very large numbers of GOLDFINCHES and MAGPIES. On the lake [illegible] were SWANS, COOTS and MUSK DUCK. There were about 12 of the latter and they were diving — a surprising thing to do in

lake which is reputed to be so deep. A large flock of SWALLOWS [illegible] I had intended to take them [illegible] and Camperdown. But the [illegible] was not much. Showing them — SWANS and GULLS on the [illegible] SHAG & PELICAN and the CRIMSON [illegible] on the shore-line — PLOVER and CHATS on the shore flats!

We moved on to the STONY RISES where they had a stroll for an hour [illegible] Pinnacle — could not go far but the enforced stay in the one spot found the EASTERN ROSELLA's nest and two nests of the NOISY MINER. RAVENS, WHITE COCKATOOS and [illegible] FLESH-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE were also seen.

After lunch we moved on, turned

[illegible] down to Swan Marsh [illegible]
ands to along the back road to the
bush at Carpent. [illegible] we had
another hours walk — that had gone
to sleep and I could account for
the usual population was a pair of
Coot — KOOKABURRA, GREY FANTAIL, PALLID
CUCKOO (in bush), [illegible] EARED [illegible], BLUE
WREN and YELLOW-ROBIN.

From there we came into Ollac
via Simons Hill and out on the Forest
road to Dairy dam. There was
unfortunately nothing very interesting there
WHITE FACED CORMORANTS, AUSTRALIAN DUCK SPANS,
EASTERN SWAMP-HEN and ODIS. A SWAMP-
HARRIER beat up and down over a
paddock on the far side. RED WATTLEBIRDS
were singing in the [illegible] near the
road. We had an excellent view of
a pair of LITTLE GRASS-BIRDS calling and
collecting food for their young.

[illegible] a short speech of thanks
[illegible] down on me by Michael Thomas

Jamica 1st 1950 Was the most superb day imaginable – hot with a cloudless sky and a soft west wind. In the morning I dropped Joan and the family with Kath Noble and set off on my bicycle largely with the idea of taking photographs of the district with my old Kodak which I had just adjusted.

My first stop was at Hayward where I took 3 photos of Mr Maine Lewis' fruit paddock as an example of open forest. Then up to Jeo where I took a long distance westerly photo of Bally Dam. Of the dam itself I took 6 photos. Around the dam were the regulars – EASTERN SWAMPHEN, SPUR-WINGED PLOVER, WHITE-FACED HERON, a few BLACK DUCK LITTLE GREBE, LITTLE PIED CORMORANT SWANS and SWAMP-HARRIER. Two other raptores were the GOSHAWK and a WHISTLING EAGLE. In the reeds were the LITTLE-GRASSBIRD and the REED WARBLER and as ever the air above was full of SWALLOWS.

Then on through Tso, occasionally photographing (the EASTERN RISEBIRD and many others as well as the YELLOW THORNBILL at the entrance to the bush) until I had almost reached Bamboo Gk when across the road walked a very large Echidna I stopped the car, and with the camera followed. When I got near it curled and started burrowing so I took a quick snap of it & it would not be dislodged so I set up the camera and went the length of my rubber tubing away and had lunch. Only BLUE WRENS and GREY FANTAILS were about. On return 3/4 hr. the Echidna did not budge so I took what remained in sight of it (precious little) and went on.

I turned down the Devonport Rd for 1/2 mile and took 6 photos of the Barron R which is very beautiful there. Then a few hundred yards on the Forest Rd and I stopped & ran to

which I am beginning to know so well. I walked beside to the river and there were NATIVE THRUSHES, EASTERN ROSELLAS, MAGPIES, MAGPIE-LARKS. I crossed and went into the tussocks where I had heard the Cisticola. I thought I saw them again but on checking they were [illegible]. By now my back was beginning to feel the effect of the sun and I returned to the car.

I retraced my steps, fording up a BRIDLEWAY from the road, and turned left on the Boundary track. It was very much a track getting worse as it went on, including detours in the scrub to avoid deep ruts and ruts in which the wheels had just enough purchase to drag the belly of the car along the ground. But I got through and after paying a short visit to [illegible] and I had just had words about [illegible] to notice CRIMSON ROSELLAS and YELLOW ROBINS in the bush)

I went to Burtons Lookout for photos and then on Barneys Rd to Barneys walk where I got a photo of the blackwoods on the undulating country where a flock of SPINE-TAILED SWIFTS shooting past. Saw nine birds. I had tea at Carpent Rocks Hill and went on through Greenwalkpie to Swan Flats (Skylarks) to the large swamp in the Stony Rises at Stenhead.

I had had a report from Harold Taw of 3 Red Geese there — most unlikely. There were about 100 WHITE IBIS, 2 STRAW-NECKED IBIS YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL 1 WHITE EGRET and many WHITE-FACED HERON, SPUR-WINGED PLOVER and EASTERN SWAMP-HEN. No geese. In the Rises were BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKES, BROWN THORNBILLS PALLID CUCKOOS YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATERS STRIATED THORNBILLS and a BOOBOOK OWL of which I had an excellent view. And so photographing all the way to Pivan Pick and home with the sun-glare behind me.

February 25th 1850. At 3.10 in the afternoon Jane and I left Mac Ry Car for our holiday tour destination the first night was to be Ballarat. We passed north through Bacac and Cressy across flat plains to Rokewood. I read my eyes then & Bridge and old turkeys but nothing was seen till Rokewood we changed and soon got to Corindia, where we were surprised to see a flock of SILVER GUMS. Then up through ranges under until we met large stretches of bush with a most glorious sun a dark setting from behind Dunghs. It was here that we began to meet natives on the road. The WOMEN than were seen dark in the middle of the back and some had a piece black extending on their wings. I think this must have been a kind of protection for their eyes against the bright sun. Such confusing birds were not seen.

Rokewood reached dark, and

it began to rain. The windscreen wiper began it's work and nearly stopped them. The next 45 kms [illegible] We arrived in Ballarat just [illegible] began. and settled in for the night at Craig's Hill where we had the royal suite.

22/2/50. Before we left Ballarat next morning we visited the gardens where a flock of YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILLS were feeding busily about the entrance. We much admired their beauty and not least their [illegible] Then we drove to Daylesford for a drink and [illegible] in the car. Then on to Kyneton where we had lunch and we almost immediately [illegible] From Kyneton we drove with [illegible] and saw DUSKY-WOODSWALLOWS RAVENS, EASTERN ROSELLAS, RED-BACKED PARROTS, NOISY MINERS,

JACKY WINTERS, BROWN HAWK, Flocks of WHITE-WINGED CHOUGHS WILLIE-WAGTAILS MAGPIES, KOOKABURRAS, FAIRY MARTINS, A NATIVE THRUSH BROWN TREE CREEPERS and in all the Commoner STARLINGS. These birds were all seen frequently from the train in the open forest country.

North of Heathcote I was very pleased to be able to show Joan a small flock of GALAHS. Nearby were [illegible] WHITE CockATOOS. KOOKABURRAS PIPITS and MAGPIE-LARKS were always Common. At Rushworth we met the [illegible] and Heard [illegible] WHITE-FACED HERON, a SACRED KINGFISHER, SPUR-WINGED PLOVERS and a WHISTLING EAGLE.

We lobbed with petrol at Murchison and succeeded in getting onto the wrong

road which took us to Tatura and so to Shepparton where we made our lunch stop. RESTFUL and STRAW-NECKED IBIS joined my list.

From there the remainder of the day's run was on really beautiful roads through Numurkah and up to Wangaratta. There we stayed at the Athian Hotel — which was absolutely clean.

3-1-50 We set off from Wangaratta about 9.0 am through Tarrawingee, Everton to Myrtleford. The Ovens valley is a beautiful main feature of the river marked in, mist and low cloud, [illegible] glistening [illegible] river oaks lined the Ovens and another whose upper limbs were a clear white network. GREY-CROWNED BABBLERS, HORSFIELD BUSHLARKS, RAINBOW WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATERS, a RESTLESS FLYCATCHER and BLUE-WRENS were abundant

From Myrtleford we turned South

on the Mt Buffalo road and when we entered the bush there were [illegible] FINCHES, [illegible] and YELLOW ROBINS. We clunked up [illegible] clunking up into the misty wet bush. [illegible] by a GANG-GANG and two GREY CURRAWONGS. Then over the rim of the plateau we splashed down a [illegible] Where we were given a late lunch [illegible]

1:30 to 4:40

February 4th. Rain on the mountain in a cloud and the rain alternating between a downpour and a drizzle. Taiwan was in on the beam, [illegible] and we were back-tracking and ventured out on the road around [illegible] was calm [illegible] was in its usual [illegible] We soon ran into the [illegible] WHITE-EARED

the EASTERN PEWEE as well as the white-eyed and the SINGING ~~and the~~ WHITE-EARED which we had already seen. STRIATED THORNBILLS were also seen. We followed the road round to the lake on which were four BLACK DUCK and on the flats around it were BLACK-BACKED MAGPIES.

On the further side of the lake, an AUSTRALIAN KINGFISHER [illegible] To [illegible] about half a mile. It was evidently a pair and with white on the shoulders and on the hind [illegible] We struck off the road to our right and climbed the hill to a [illegible] rock by which we stopped. But it was misty and we saw little. We came down and within about half a mile were back at the chalet.

[illegible] and after tea went to the woman's house to [illegible] The night was [illegible]

[illegible] spread up beneath us. It was a [illegible]

[illegible]

and a fleeting glance by a WHITE-BROWED [illegible]

hot at the Chalet, but were pleased that the weather showed signs of clearing

P.S. I forgot to mention that at [illegible]

50 the RED WATTLE-BIRD and the RED-TIPPET [illegible]

6.2.50. In the morning we took the car to [illegible] and made [illegible]

After a temporary set back by taking

In wrong both we climbed up to the three large (magdalena) stones On the way I add to my list for the plateau the BROWN HAWK, the SCARLET ROBIN and the KESTREL. At the top was a flock of SILVEREYES. We then descended on the other side a steep path and saw snow-gums which reminded me greatly of the track down from the saddle between Mt. Kutans and Mt. Hugel to the Hugel Lakes (p. 110). Then, striking left round the base of the mountain we went to the head of the reservoir and on to Mt Jimmie.

We both had rounds the point of this for more than half the circle before we came to the last ridge. It was a steep climb and at the top we found a short cairn and a book. Here we obtained a fair view of the whole plateau and this too made a quick descent (seeing a few BROWN THORNBILLS there were not on the plateau) and walked to our car and so back for Sunday dinner.

In the afternoon I went down on the track to the Underground Rivers and sat about, watched and listened. Saw a Tui, the White-throated Tree-creeper, the Fantail-Cuckoo and the 'PILOT' BIRD.

[illegible]

25 the Views Point which gave a
25

[illegible]

1.2.50. We set off again in the car, and taking the road to the town, we stopped below the Cathedral and the Humps. The latter we climbed and got the finest view we have yet seen — onto the Horn itself rising above the skyline. On our [illegible] the Cathedral, but we were not good hangers & climbers and had to give up. On the way down we passed an escorted tour going up to the Humps. We drove back about half-a-mile

and had our lunch. There Joan relaxed for the rest of the afternoon while I wandered about watching and listening to birds but found nothing new for the day. It began to rain as we drove back for an early bath and change

7.2.50. We took the car to L. Calumo and walked [illegible] clambered about the rocks and then just sat [illegible] in the [illegible] warm grey day. As we sat had a higher kilched more staccato call than ours. Then came the single call of a Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo Then a cavalcade of calls. Joan commented [illegible] sounded just like the funny remark "clicked" and I realized we were listening to a Lyrebird. In quick succession it imitated, as well, the [illegible] and Pilot bird. I scrambled about

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lunch. The afternoon we rested

9.2.50 We took the car up to the far end of the plateau as far as we could on the road to the town. The road was very rough and we walked the last [illegible] a large flock

[illegible] Kestrels were hovering round and [illegible] of PIED CURRAWONGS floated above [illegible] majestic, their tiny call floating up to us. The pinnacle of the town was wrecked in having [illegible]

be a break and the station about is
[illegible]
The afternoon we started on the
second station and the tracks were
[illegible] and the [illegible] was
[illegible] that we got [illegible]
[illegible] rushed down a [illegible] through.
[illegible] We went, [illegible] it was not, on
a [illegible]-day, [illegible] the Nile.
[illegible] station. The last [illegible]
[illegible] from the [illegible] Province, and his
[illegible]. We went on the track [illegible]
[illegible] and [illegible] there we had been
[illegible] time. [illegible] over a sandy
road up on to the station [illegible]
[illegible] a small [illegible] there was
water for [illegible]. [illegible] built in
[illegible] and we waited [illegible] hour.
[illegible] and [illegible] to rest. Then
[illegible] and [illegible] breakfast, and with
[illegible] again on [illegible] we [illegible]
[illegible] if we were [illegible] and that
[illegible] They were absolutely

delicious. Their Tomatoes were just
as cut in half, with the cut face
[illegible] with salt, pepper
& sugar. It was really a treat
to remember.

Then we struck up the
[illegible]
[illegible]
stream and clam[illegible] rocks.
The end of our
[illegible]
Country to the South and west.
[illegible]
and then headed up and up, now,
as it ran to the west.

We turned for home the
[illegible]
[illegible]

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N. W. Cayley